

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LUANDA 00760 291246Z

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ACTION AF-18

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R 291030Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2924

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

S E C R E T LUANDA 0760

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT AO

SUBJECT: MARCOS KASSANGA

NOFORN

REF: STATE 183027

1. ACCORDING TO ANGELINO ALBERTO, THE SELF DESCRIBED FOUNDER AND STILL PRESIDENT OF THE ANGOLAN NATIONALIST UNION, MARCOS KASSANGA WAS AT ONE TIME THE HEAD OF MILITARY OPERATIONS FOR THE ANGOLAN NATIONALIST UNION (UNA). ALBERTO STILL CONSIDERS KASSANGA TO BE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE ORGANIZATION, ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT HEARD FROM KASSANGA IN NINE OR TEN YEARS AND WONDERS WHY HE DOESN'T WRITE. ACCORDING TO ALBERTO, KASSANGA LEFT ANGOLA FOR THE CONGO SOME TEN YEARS AGO AND FROM THERE MADE HIS WAY TO ALGERIA, WHERE ALBERTO LOST TRACK OF HIM.

2. ALBERTO CLAIMS 2,300,000 MEMBERS FOR UNA, ALMOST ALL OF THEM OUTSIDE LUANDA. ALBERTO MAINTAINS AN OFFICE IN LUANDA AND LIVES, HE SAYS, ON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM HIS FOLLOWERS. HE SAYS HE HAS BRANCHES IN BENGUELA AND ONE OR TWO OTHER CITIES, BUT THAT UNA MEMBERS WILL NOT DEAL WITH LOCAL LEADERS AND HE MUST ATTEND PERSONALLY TO ALL PARTY MATTERS. IT IS ALBERTO'S VIEW THAT MPLA, FNLA AND UNITA ARE TINY GROUPINGS OF NO SIGNIFICANCE.

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3. ALBERTO CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY THE ANGOLAN RESISTANCE FRONT (FRA) A WHITE EXTREMIST ORGANIZATION THAT IS NOW TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER AN ARMY OF WHITES AND BLACKS TO TAKE POWER AND GOVERN ANGOLA. ALBERTO HAS INFERRED FROM HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH FRA REPRESENTATIVES THAT THEY WANT HIM TO BE PRESIDENT OF ANGOLA. HE IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT, BUT ON THE CONDITION THAT THE TOP JOBS IN GOVERNMENT - PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER, AMONG OTHERS - BE IN THE HANDS OF BLACKS. IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM WE DISCUSS FRA ACTIVITIES AND ASSESS THEIR PROSPECTS AT THE MOMENT AS LIMITED. THEY ARE OFFERING WHATEVER THEY THINK THEY MUST TO GET SUPPORT FROM BLACKS AND WHITES.

4. THE ANGOLAN YOUTH PARTY IS AN ARM OF THE UNA. KASSANGA OBVIOUSLY HAS HAD NO CONNECTION WITH THE ORGANIZATION FOR SOME YEARS.

5. IN STATE 183027 THE DEPARTMENT ASKED FOR OUR ASSESSMENT ON THE DEPTH OF SUPPORT THAT KASSANGA MIGHT ENJOY IN ANGOLA. WE ARE INCLINED TO THE VIEW THAT HE HAS NO SUPPORT. ALBERTO'S CLAIM OF OVER TWO MILLION MEMBERS FOR UNA IS LUDICROUS; UNA IS A MINOR PARTY AND EVEN IF KASSANGA WERE TO REESTABLISH HIS TIES WITH UNA HE WOULD STILL BE FAR REMOVED FROM THE FUTURE CENTER OF POLITICAL POWER IN ANGOLA. KASSANGA SEEMS TO BE ENGAGED IN A SHAKEDOWN OPERATION FOR PERSONAL PROFIT, AN ACTIVITY THAT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY POPULAR AS ANGOLA MOVES TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE.  
KILLORAN

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